

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. ***(Currently Amended)*** System—A system for protecting semiconductor circuits from electrostatic discharges, comprising a planar diode having two electrodes which are respectively contacted by a plurality of contacts, and the contacts are connected by means of metallic planes to the operating voltage, to a pad, or to ground, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a plurality of planar diodes is provided in a common first electrode (4), each planar diode having a second insular electrode (5) surrounded by the first electrode (4), and the contacts (6) of the electrode are (5) contacted by a first metallic plane (7) and the contacts (6) of the electrode (4) are contacted by a superposed second metallic plane (8).
2. ***(Currently Amended)*** System—The system according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein multiple planar diodes are situated adjacent to one another.
3. ***(Currently Amended)*** System—The system according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein multiple planar diodes are situated in an array.
4. ***(Currently Amended)*** System—The system according to Claim 2 and 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the planar diodes are interconnected to form a functional unit.
5. ***(Currently Amended)*** System—The system according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the insular electrode (5) has a circular or polygonal shape.
6. ***(New)*** The system according to Claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the planar diodes are interconnected to form a functional unit.